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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/542,259	12/30/2005	Horst Wisniewski	H0075.70107US00	5101
23628 7590 08/03/2010 WOLF GREENFIELD & SACKS, P.C. 600 ATLANTIC AVENUE BOSTON, MA 02210-2206				
EXAMINER				
NGUYEN, PHONG H				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3724				
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08/03/2010		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/542,259

Applicant(s)

WISNIEWSKI, HORST

Examiner

PHONG H. NGUYEN

Art Unit

3724

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 May 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-22 and 24-26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 23 and 27-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 December 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB08)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 23 and 27-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding the term "alternating stress" in claim 23, while there is a stress applying on the workpiece, it is not the main purpose of the invention. The main purpose of the invention is to apply alternating forces or bending forces on both sides of the workpiece to break the workpiece into two sections. The Applicant is requested to find a proper term to replace the term "alternating stress".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 23 and 27-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Duecker (5,927,582) in view of Hill (3,854,512) and Gold (3,086,365).

Regarding claim 23, Duecker teaches a workpiece cracking device comprising:

a base;

a first pair of jaws 20 immovably mounted on the base, the first pair of jaws having a lower jaw and an upper jaw;

a second pair of jaws 22 movably mounted to the base, the second pair of jaws having a lower jaw and an upper jaw;

a drive 28 for moving the second pair of jaws up and down with respect to a plane of the workpiece; and

wherein an upper side and an underside of the workpiece are under a stress.

See Figs. 1-5.

Duecker does not teach the workpiece being under an alternating stress and a control unit with the frequency and the reciprocating force of the second pair of jaws being adjustable.

Hill teaches a workpiece being under an alternating stress for easier separating two portions of the workpiece.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to apply an alternating stress as taught by Hill on the workpiece in Duecker for easier separating two portion of the workpiece.

Gold teaches an actuation rod 15 similar to the actuation rod 86 in Fernandez wherein the frequency and the reciprocating force of the rod are adjustable by a control unit. See Fig. 1.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the actuation rod of Gold into the cracking device of Fernandez so that a user can control the frequency and the cracking force of the actuation rod.

Regarding claims 27 and 28, the free ends of the pairs of jaws are best seen in Fig. 2 in Duecker.

Regarding claim 29, the spaced apart ends of the pairs of jaws in Duecker are considered "cutting edges" since they help separating a workpiece into two sections.

Regarding claims 30 and 31, the cracking device of Duecker is capable of cracking a disk shaped workpiece and the cutting edges are capable of forming an angle between 5-30 degrees with respect to a radius of the disk-shaped workpiece.

Regarding claim 32, Gold teaches the hydraulic system comprising a pump 4, a valve 5 and an actuator cylinder 15.

Regarding claims 33 and 34, the valve 5 in Gold is controllable.

Regarding claim 35, as Gold's hydraulic system is incorporated into the Fernandez's device, the cylinder's 15 in Gold replaces the cylinder 28 in Duecker.

Regarding claim 36, the cylinder 28 being connected to the base is best seen in Fig. 2 in Duecker.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **PHONG H. NGUYEN** whose telephone number is (571)272-4510. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Boyer Ashley can be reached on 571-272-4502. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Phong H Nguyen/
Examiner, Art Unit 3724
July 30, 2010